

LATE MIGRANTS IN CUMBRIA IN 1978 AT M.V. LIGHT. — After a poor season for migrants in these parts, the appearance of four *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) at the end of October, and two *Udea ferrugalis* (Hubn.) on the night of November 1st, the signs were of a rare and late migration for so far North. This was confirmed by the appearance of a female *Orthonama obstipata* (Fab.) on the night of November 5th, which I found with the aid of a torch, sat in a dark corner near to the M.V. trap. She laid six eggs in the pill box next day, which hatched on November 23rd, but the larvae died after refusing Groundsel, Chrysanthemum, and Alyssum., in the absence of Knot-grass. On the morning of November 12th, only four moths were inside the trap, one was a perfect male *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.) a newcomer to these parts, and as far as I can ascertain, a new addition to the Cumbria list of Lepidoptera. — J. BRIGGS, Frimley House, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria.

THE CLAP-NET AND THE HIGH-NET. — A recent contribution of mine to the *Record*, "The History of the Entomological Clap-net in Great Britain" (90: 127-132) has prompted a number of personal letters about the uses and styles of collecting nets. Despite these very interesting comments, neither I nor the Editor have been sent any definite information about the actual survival of a clap-net. Considering the frequent preservation of antique scientific apparatus, it seems at least likely that some examples of a once common item of entomological equipment, used as late as the turn of the century, might still remain. Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt would especially like to know, for the historical record, of any clap-nets extant in Great Britain or elsewhere.

In the paper cited above, I also discussed the history of the high-net used for *Apatura iris* (L.). Traditionally this net had a length of twenty or thirty feet, and after recording its use since the eighteenth century (it was first mentioned by Moses Harris over two centuries ago). I concluded that "Now and then conjectures have been published as to whether these bag-nets of enormous length were really effective, or indeed useful at all, but it is certain that one of over thirty feet in length was employed relatively recently by Mr. I. R. P. Heslop: it was described and illustrated in *Notes & Views of the Purple Emperor* (1964)". In a note to one of his contributions in that volume, Mr. Heslop stated (p. 185, fn. 33) that his "high net, with maximum extension, now considerably exceeds 30 feet in length; so that, with my own height and reach, I can strike at and secure specimens up to 40 feet from the ground".

I have discovered from several letters that Mr. Heslop has hardly been alone, and that the high-net is, or has recently been, "alive and well" in Britain. The most interesting communication was from Mr. D. E. Wilson of Much Hadham, Herts., who related his experiences with the high-net. Mr. Wilson has a thirty-foot net, but on the few occasions he has put his long extension to use, he has found it unwieldy.